

The *Annals of Surgery* for July, 1912, comes out as the "American Surgical Association Number." It contains articles by such men as Coley, of New York; Stillman, of San Francisco; Charles Mayo, of Rochester; Willy Meyer, of New York. It also contains advertisements of Fellow's hypophosphites, glycothymoline, glycerine tonic, antiphlogistine, bovinine, salhepatica and pasadyne. The *Annals* is published by the J. B. Lippincott Co. They should be ashamed of themselves; they have money enough to publish the *Annals* without taking the nostrum money they get from these few advertisements. But probably so long as men of the class mentioned will write articles for the *Annals*, the publisher will continue to aid in promoting nostrums.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an article by Dr. Kress on the collection plan of the Los Angeles County Association. The "pasters" to which he refers, and which he says have made every man who uses them his own collection agency, can be recommended very highly. They certainly do get results and they get them without producing offense. The fact that physicians, as a class, are very careless and negligent in the matter of collecting money due them, has been harped upon repeatedly; but that is not to say that they must always remain so; they *may* improve! The physician who conducts the business side of his profession in a thoroughly businesslike way, receives more real respect from his patients than the one who does not; you have very little respect for any one who is "easy to work"; that is just human nature. These pasters will help you a great deal. A set of them can be had by any member merely for the asking. Send to the Secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, 930 Butler Building, San Francisco, for a set of the pasters and try them. The result will surprise you.

Are you? If not, you should. Every machine, every piece of mechanism needs an occasional rest. Every human being needs an occasional play time. It is awfully easy to get into the habit of thinking that you cannot find the time. But if you make the effort and do find the time, and get away from the everyday grind, you find out very quickly how easy, in reality, it is to do. You owe your patients a certain amount of play time for yourself, each year, just as much as you owe them a certain amount of time for reading and study to keep up. A tired, "stale" doctor is not a good doctor for a sick person to have, and the only way to keep from getting stale is to get away and play, once in a while.

The idea of having all the churches and religious societies in the country take up the subject of the prevention of tuberculosis on some one specified day, has proved to be a very good one; this year will be the third tuberculosis Sunday. Last year some 50,000 churches took a lively interest in the matter and this year it is estimated that about 100,000 will devote Sunday, October 27th, to the cause of preventing needless deaths as well as to that of saving souls. One would naturally assume that a strong, well, wage-earning church member would be much more desirable than a sickly tuberculous who may quite possibly become the forced recipient of parochial charity.

#### EPIDEMIC OF POLIOMYELITIS.

An epidemic of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, broke out in Los Angeles in June; it seems to have been reported first on June 10th. Almost immediately cases were noted in the beach resorts near the city and very rapidly the disease was found in other counties. Cases have occurred in Riverside, Ventura, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and San Francisco counties. A number of places, notably Pasadena, San Diego and some of the San Joaquin valley points, have either taken steps to quarantine against Los Angeles and that section, or have urged, through their respective health officers, that such measures be taken. In Los Angeles the gravity of the epidemic was at once recognized by Dr. Powers, the health officer, and a special committee was appointed by the mayor to handle the situation. Up to August 11th, 205 cases with 41 deaths were reported in Los Angeles. The death rate is not the most important factor in considering the gravity of such an epidemic, for the disease leaves some 90 per cent. of its victims crippled for life. At first the press, with its stupid policy of suppressing the facts in order not to produce a "scare," was uniformly silent, but about the middle of July items began to be published; later, the press gave all the necessary space to putting out the facts, and papers in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Monica, San Jose, Sacramento, Stockton, Coalinga, Hanford, Merced, Santa Ana, and San Francisco (and possibly other places) have published excellent articles on the subject. In Los Angeles a special appropriation was made and placed at the disposal of the special committee in charge, which committee, and the health officer, were given practically unlimited powers to extend and apply quarantine measures as they might deem necessary. The energy with which the situation was tackled in Los Angeles commands one's respect and admiration and gives emphatic assurance that the epidemic will be under control as soon as it is humanly possible.

The present virulent outbreak of poliomyelitis seems to have originated in 1904, for while cases had been reported, from time to time, previously, the figures were never very large. With the year 1904, however, the number of cases reported in-